

Racism on the rise



RACISM remains prevalent after the failed voice referendum gave Australia permission to stage a "redneck jamboree", an Indigenous health conference has been told.

One-in-three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth reported being treated differently because of their race, keynote speaker Pat Dudgeon told the National Indigenous Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Conference in Adelaide.

"This information comes from 2020, before we had the ill-fated, failed referendum, which gave permission for horrible expressions of racism," the University of Western Australia's



Pat Dudgeon. Picture: supplied.

professor of Indigenous studies said last Tuesday.

The 2023 referendum to give Indigenous people a voice to federal parliament was rejected nationally and by a majority in every state.

"And we're still dealing with that," prof Dudgeon said.

"Now we can barely put a post up on Facebook no matter how positive it is without some unknown... making disparaging remarks."

Racism remained strong in Australia and "we track it back to during that referendum, and then afterwards", Prof Dudgeon said.

"It's like Australia was given permission to have a big redneck jamboree," she said.

Programs like the Warriorship in the Face of Racism project could help Indigenous people and communities to build resilience and support their social and emotional wellbeing, she said.

Up to 2015, suicide was treated "a bit like it was the individual's fault, rather than society."

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide-prevention evaluation project found Indigenous suicide had many causes, including cultural, historical and political.

"We were very adamant that this is part of the colonising story," prof Dudgeon said.

"There needs to be

community control and empowerment, programs should be holistic, sustainable, strength-based and capacity building."

The project found there needed to be intervention at different levels and universal approaches, she said.

"If we looked after the wellbeing of people, then there wouldn't be suicide, there wouldn't be family violence," prof Dudgeon said.

"Government policies such as the dispossession of our traditional lands, the forcible removal of children, disruption to culture, identity, the oppression that continues today, has resulted in complex experiences of trauma."

The two-day conference is believed to be the nation's largest gathering focused on Indigenous mental health and suicide prevention.

There were more than 500 delegates at the sellout conference, hosted by the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association.

But chair Vanessa Edwige said the "stark reality" was the association's government funding ended this year and there was no certainty it would secure more.

"Let's use this conference as a platform to champion all our great work, let's make sure decision makers understand that these programs are not optional, they are essential," she said.

Archiving of our stories in trusted hands



Pauline Clague. Picture: supplied.



THE National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) of Australia has appointed archivist, producer, academic and storyteller, Pauline Clague, as its head of First Nations engagement.

A Yaegl woman from the North Coast of NSW, Clague will drive the NFSA's strategy governing the collection, interpretation and protocols for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artefacts, and lead a dedicated First Nations engagement team to amplify First Nations voices across all NFSA activities.

Based at the NFSA's Sydney office, Clague will continue the institution's work in cultural advocacy, building relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and driving a First Nations-led program of digital access and repatriation to ensure knowledge and collection content is accessible and useful to communities of origin.

Most recently associate professor, manager of cultural resilience hub at the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education (UTS), Clague has more than 30 years' experience in the screen industry. She was series producer of the ABC's *Message Stick* and of SBS's *The Deadly Awards* and became commissioning editor and head of internal productions at NITV, where she launched the landmark series *Our Stories, Our*

Way, Everyday. Her most recent documentary *The Colleano Heart* aired on SBS Television earlier this year.

Clague was the founder and artistic director of the Winda Film Festival in Sydney, a programmer for the *imagineNATIVE* festival in Toronto and the co-creator of the *NativeSlam* film challenge in Aotearoa (New Zealand). In 2015, she was awarded the Stanley Hayes Award for contribution to Australian documentaries.

"We are genuinely honoured that Pauline has chosen to join the team at the NFSA," said Patrick McIntyre, the NFSA's CEO. "Pauline is a senior leader in First Nations audiovisual practice. She brings deep archival, creative and managerial skills along with exceptional relationships in the field across the country and internationally. Her incredible experience in community engagement and consultation will bring great depth, nuance and creativity to our work."

Pauline Clague added, "I am very excited to work with the NFSA to strengthen the archiving space for audiovisual material and for the national and cultural interest of our First Nations practitioners and community. It is an area I have been passionate about for many years and look forward to building on what the team have started in the past few years."

Clague started at the NFSA on April 7.



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